

INCLINE GREAT SCHOOLS COMMITTEE MEETING
Monday, March 28, 2011 – 3:35pm-5:35pm @ the Parasol Bldg., I.V.

Present: Nancy Sanger, Harry Haaser, Stacey Cooper, Sharon Kennedy, Kathleen Watty, Sandy Soli, Joanne Devine, Virginia Miller, Michael Goldberg, Mayra Barajas, Valerie Jackson. {Meeting open to public}

Nancy Sanger opened the meeting at 3:35pm with greetings and a brief review of Action Items.

- Gap analysis
- Focus group information

(Both of which are still coming in. Focus groups will be meeting this week)-delayed due to snow day last week).

It was then stated that the high school is currently working on Pre-Registration for 2011-2012 which is a different format than previous years. There will not be Arena Scheduling; instead there will be a Curriculum Fair on Monday, April 4th.

Nancy then stated that WCSD will be working faster than the state in regards to testing results and rolling out new plans. MAP (Measured Academic Programs-at elementary levels) will be used as well as CRT (Criterion Reference Testing-at elementary levels) to measure student progress and incorporating 'Common Core.'

Nancy informed the group that it will be the district's Communications Dept. that will be working on information from now and into the future regarding students that leave and why. This will create a more accurate graduation rate data.

Community comments/emails were then covered. The email covered was as a result of Stacey's PAC (Parent Action Committee) at the high school. The sender stated that they would like to see I.B. at the lower levels for the following three reasons:

1. Sustaining rigor
2. Bi-lingual learning for all
3. Curriculum alignment with higher grade levels

In Regards to I.B. being in the survey – this is a district decision that is still pending. Our focus is identifying and filling the gaps.

Stacey gave an update on information regarding the dual credit program/option with SNC. She spoke of her meetings with SNC President Rubsamén. He would like to see collaboration between all areas of education (locally). It was suggested that offering college credit to high school students may encourage them to stay in school knowing that it is possible to graduate from high school with an associate's degree.

Stacey continued to say that the language and contract still needed to be looked at as well as ways to make the courses align with both the high school and the college's daily schedules. Fees could be reduced or in some cases even free. Stacey continued in stating that the high school should know within the next two weeks what the master schedule will look like which will hopefully align I.H.S & SNC courses.

Stacey mentioned that at this time there are roughly 36 high school students that are currently "off campus" for one or more classes in order to obtain credit for courses that are either not offered at the high school or are only offered during conflicting periods with their current schedule. For example Physics and *We the People* classes are offered for only one period and that happens to be the same period. Therefore students who wanted both of those classes were forced to seek them outside of the I.H.S. campus (BYU, Keystone, WOLF, or SNC at full price).

This discussion led a recommendation to communicate with Heath Morrison and Pedro Martinez regarding WCSD policy as it pertains to dual credit; guidelines and possible limitations. Looking to form a "Partnership to mingle our resources (I.H.S. & SNC)" would be a positive direction to head in.

It was then said that looking to partner with UNR, TMCC & SNC would be even better.

The K-12 (charter school entity recognized nationally-online learning) was discussed briefly.

Harry Haaser then went over the update of the 7 recommendations of the original Task Force:

1. **A PIF (Parent Involvement Facilitator) at each Incline campus** – The PIFs /Mentors/Bi-lingual Aides that currently exist within the three schools are funded with “soft money” (not district paid). The part-time bi-lingual aide at the high school is to be shared between all three schools but that is somewhat unrealistic since the portion of that position is only 3.5 hours per day. So, this is still an unfulfilled need.
Nancy stated that the “Parent Involvement Office” at the district may be able to help in this area and as an *Action Item* she will contact them and look into this for us.
2. **IB:** Dr. Morrison will be speaking on the status of IB this week.
3. **Web Presence:** www.incline schools.org This is done. In addition to this website each school has their own individual web site that is linked to the combined site. This is thanks to the McClellands and the Goldbergs. And the I.E.S. PTA has a web site as well. An *Action Item* may be that we seek to place student s in the position of web maintainers. Nancy said that this is approved by the district and students could even receive community service for their time spent on the project.
4. **Bi-Lingual Clerk:** This only exists at the high school as 3.5 hours per day and is to be shared for translations between all three schools. I.M.S. and I.E.S. is still in need of their own bi-lingual aide.
5. **Ski Academy:** This is now called “Winter Sports Academy.” It is place at the high school and is going well and a handbook is in the process of being made. There are 5 of these students at the high school and that number should more than double next year. It was said that this should be implemented at all three schools. Nancy agreed.
6. **Printed Material and School Brochures:** The only thing that is in place at each site is the *Accountability Reports* and at the high school the *Course Catalog*, that Brenda Hedden just completed, is available. It was said that perhaps it is not so pertinent now with the website in place. Harry suggested perhaps making bookmarks to hand out. Kathleen suggested magnets. Stacey shared that she intends to put together gift bags to distribute this summer to student homes with pertinent information within. Parent groups could perhaps assist in some of these ideas. Harry mentioned that in regards to this and the web sites, sustainability becomes the challenge.
7. **SNC:** Dual Credit. This is in the works as stated above.

Joanne Devine spoke briefly on the sub-committee report. The survey and focus group results will be vital in finding views on: Core knowledge, Spring Board, Raising standards, and aligning curriculum. There are so many programs already in place so perhaps the direction should be formatting things differently in the areas of developing lesson plans that indicate higher level thinking and to get more collaboration with teachers.

It was mentioned that the AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) is well liked at the high school and perhaps those methods could be implemented at the other schools as well. Aaron Parsons at the high school is now a trained trainer for AVID. It fills a need that is not filled by the district. It would make sense to integrate the AVID methods at each campus.

Sharing PD (Professional Development) between schools was strongly suggested in the efforts of engaging ALL kids at ALL levels. Integrating technology was also suggested with the comment that it could be costly and would require training.

Teachers currently create their lessons with the standards written in. At Incline Elementary the “I can...” statement is visible and used in each classroom. At the high school “Objectives” are place on the boards of each classroom. It was suggested that a PD should be held regarding writing lesson plans with standards and critical thinking being implemented. This should be formalized at each site. Nancy stated that this will be developed within the next 2 years.

Nancy then brought up the April 1st ACT meeting (75 minutes) to seek out interest within the group to attend. She then stated that the community meeting regarding the recommendations of this group is tentatively set for April 18th at 6:00pm. This will be solidified as the group wraps up on April 5th.

Nancy reiterated that the survey and focus groups results would not be covered yet as the groups are still meeting this week due to the snow days last week. These results will be covered in the next meeting. The Gap Analysis will be evident after all of these results are in. The format for the groups' recommendations will be covered at the April 5th meeting.

Nancy then opened up the meeting to community comments/questions:

1. Did you expect such few surveys to be collected?
2. And, Considering only +/- 170 were completed, do you feel this adequately represents our student/parent population?

Answer: This represents about 16% response which is actually very good. These are statistically good results. There is no way to force people to participate. No, it is not disappointing.

3. Much of the conversation has revolved around remedial actions, with the exception of brief reference to IB and some detail about the AVID Program – will there be specific details addressing detailed objectives, e.g. how will students at IV gain equivalent education to top performing countries?

Answer: Yes, dual credit addresses this – the possibility of gaining an associate's degree upon graduating from high school. In addition we do have ACCU Placer tests. Furthermore, this group is to give recommendations NOT to put in objectives. (Harry continued conversations with this guest after the meeting).

Meeting was adjourned at 5:35pm

Minutes taken and submitted by Valerie Jackson.